

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of March 26 - March 30, 2007**

1. **Street Resurfacing (Ward 4):** Maple Avenue from Rte. 410 to Sherman Avenue is scheduled for milling on Monday, April 2. The resurfacing is expected to occur later in the same week. The street will be posted for no parking on the dates of the work. *(Public Works)*
2. **Traffic Calming Project Scheduled To Start Next Week (Ward 6):** The City will begin construction of a traffic calming island and the addition of sidewalks at the intersection of Glenside Drive and Wildwood Avenue just off New Hampshire Avenue. The work is expected to start mid-week next week. Signage will be posted and flyers delivered to affected neighbors once the schedule is firm. The work may be delayed by weather or contractor issues. *(Public Works)*
3. **Boston Avenue Sidewalk Improvement (Ward 1):** The City has begun installation of a sidewalk on Boston Avenue. The project was initiated by the neighborhood which presented a petition requesting sidewalks to the City Council last year. The project connects existing sidewalk in the 500 block of Boston with the existing sidewalk on Philadelphia Avenue. *(Public Works)*
4. **M-NCPPC Park Improvement Hearing:** On Thursday evening, the Mayor testified before the Montgomery County Planning Board regarding the M-NCPPC Parks Capital Improvement Program. The City thanked the Parks Department for work completed or in process. We also expressed appreciation for the work that is beginning in Takoma-Piney Branch Park (detailed design work is underway, but construction won't begin until late summer 2008). The City asked that work be scheduled for: the Cherry Avenue Connector to the Sligo Creek Hiker-Biker Trail, replacement of the retaining wall at Takoma Urban Park (Gazebo Park), design and construction of a non-paved Long Branch Trail, and design and construction of Sligo Mill Park (at Sligo Mill Road and Orchard Avenue). *(Community & Government Liaison)*
5. **County Budget Hearings:** Public hearings before the Montgomery County Council regarding the County Budget are scheduled for: April 9, 10, 11 and 16 at 7pm and April 11 at 1:30 pm. To sign up to testify, call 240-777-7931. *(Community & Government Liaison)*
6. **Tax Help:** The Montgomery County Community Action Agency is providing free tax assistance for low and moderate income residents by appointment at the TESS Center (at Flower and Piney Branch) and at Progress Place in downtown Silver Spring. For more information, call 301-565-7451. For appointments at the TESS Center, call 301-565-7675. The tax assistance program will also offer information on the federal Earned Income Tax Credit. The State of Maryland supplements the federal credit and Montgomery County is the first local jurisdiction to provide a local earned income tax credit. *(Community & Government Liaison)*
7. **New Passport Hours:** The City of Takoma Park serves as a United States Passport application acceptance facility for persons who wish to apply for a U.S. passport. For service, stop by the Community Center's main desk during our new passport hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday - 9 am to 1:30 pm; Wednesday - 9 am to 4 pm. For more information, call 301-891-7100 during work hours or refer to information on the web at <http://travel.state.gov/passport>. *(Community & Government Liaison)*
8. **Stinky Ride On Buses:** Many of the small Ride On buses are having a problem with smokey diesel exhaust. The buses are being replaced. Residents can help by noting the number of the bus and reporting it on Ride On's web complaint form on the County's web site. The link is:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/dpwt/transit/routesandschedules/form_mail/concern_main_page.asp Complaints registered through the web site are logged directly into Ride On's system and the buses can be quickly targeted for repair or replacement. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

9. Officers in Meetings: On March 27, Chief Ricucci met with Carol Wiszynski, Local 400 Police Union Representative, to discuss issues and concerns relating to the union membership of the agency. On March 28, the Chief attended the Council of Governments Chiefs' meeting. On March 27, Capt. Coursey and Mary Kendall attended the CSAFE Oversight Committee meeting in Hyattsville. On March 29, Capt. Coursey and Abel Castillo attended the Roam Secure Area Network meeting at the Montgomery County EOC. (*Police*)

10. More News on Officers: On March 26, Pvts. Jordan and Robison were sworn in by Mayor Porter. Pvt. Jordan reported for duty on March 27 and was assigned to Patrol Squad 3 under the Field Training supervision of Cpl. Erwin. Pvt. Robison reported for duty on March 28 and was assigned to Patrol Squad 1 under the Field Training supervision of PFC. Eckford. From March 26 to March 30, Det. Conrad attended training entitled "Finding Words", sponsored by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. On March 28, Pvts. Jordan and Robison, Ms. Dean, and Ms. White attended the City's Customer Service Training. (*Police*)

11. An Arrest Made in the City: On March 28, a New York resident and student at Columbia Union College was arrested on an outstanding warrant obtained by the Criminal Investigations Division. The warrant was the result of a February 27 burglary on the campus which was reported on February 28. As a result of this arrest, investigators interviewed the suspect who acknowledged his involvement and identified additional suspects. Additional warrants are pending. (*Police*)

12. Traffic Enforcement (Wards 3 & 4): Officers conducted at least 109 traffic stops this week, 85 of which ended in written citations, and two impounds. More than half of the stops were made on New Hampshire, Carroll, and Laurel Avenues and University Boulevard. (*Police*)

13. Master Plan Workshop - Sligo Creek Parkway and New Hampshire Avenue (Wards 3 & 6): City staff held a workshop for residents, property owners, and businesses to review the vision for new development as presented in the Master Plan and zoning ordinance at the commercial center and to identify small scale improvements. Nine people attended and discussed ways to make the area more attractive to residents and a desire to see the WSSC site developed in a positive way. This was the third in a series of workshops that will be held to address each of the City's commercial areas. One more workshops will take place in March - the Maryland Gateway at 9:00am Saturday morning at 6411 Orchard Avenue. Next week, April 5th, there will be a workshops on Maple Avenue at 6:30pm in the Azalea Room of the City Building, and a meeting is scheduled for Old Takoma the 12th of April, location TBA. (*Housing and Community Development*)

14. County Municipalities met with Department of Permitting Services (City-wide): City Staff from Planning and Public Works attended the meeting for County municipal officials Thursday in Garrett Park. The meeting addressed ongoing concerns with educating citizens on required development steps, permit enforcement and other issues. The meeting was very positive and should improve the development process for citizens. Municipalities will work with permitting services in upcoming months to work out a process to ensure that homeowners in municipalities have been notified that they may have additional requirements and need to check with their respective municipality. The City also learned that the county does not check height

unless a complaint is received on additions - height is only checked on teardowns. The County only has 5 inspectors reviewing additions and renovations for all of Montgomery County. The Department Director will be reviewing staffing needs and allocation in the upcoming months. *(Housing and Community Development)*

15. Main Street Takoma Spring Clean-up Day Saturday, April 28 (City -Wide): Save the Date! Main Street Takoma Design Committee is organizing the second annual Spring Clean-up Day for all residents to spruce up Old Takoma from Takoma Junction to 4th Street NW. Volunteers needed! The Clean-up will take place Saturday, April 28, 9am-12noon. For more information or to sponsor the event, please contact designcommittee@takomamainstreet.org. *(Housing and Community Development)*

16. Request for Proposals: A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been issued for Architectural Services in Connection with Proposed Renovation of the Council Chambers/Auditorium. Interested parties may download the RFP on the City website at www.takomaparkmd.gov/auditorium or may request a copy be mailed by calling 301-891-7118. *(City TV)*

17. Taste of Takoma: City TV staff will be covering the Taste of Takoma on Sunday, April 1, from noon until 6:00pm on the campus of Columbia Union College. *(City TV)*

18. Winner's Circle: City TV has sent entries to the Alliance for Community Media's annual Hometown Video Festival, and the NATOA Government Programming Awards contests this week. *(City TV)*